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Locally, 11 majors earn silver leaves

Eleven majors assigned to the base appeared on the lieutenant colonel promotion list released Tuesday. They are:

* Kevin Booth, Senior Service School candidate; Terrence Cooper; Hector Lorenzo; Donald Metscher; John Povelones, John Taylor; Phil Haun, below-the-zone and SSS candidate; James Roan, BIZ; Michael Angeloro; Dana Howard, BIZ and SSS candidate; and Wade Thompson, BIZ and SSS candidate. (Note: Thompson recently PCSed from Spangdahlem.)



Senior Airman Esperanza Berrios

Warm welcome

Toddlers Jack (left) and Logan English leave mom, Jodie, holding the bag as they rush to meet dad, Capt. Drew English. English and about 125 other members of the 81st Fighter Squadron returned March 1 after 30 days at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., taking part in Air Warrior 04 and 05. The unit split the 60-day TDY into two equal shifts.



Keane

Command CMSgt. heads to top enlisted position in ACC

By Master Sgt. Brian Hilbard
Public Affairs

The Air Force's largest major command announced last week it has chosen a Spangdahlem Air Base chief master sergeant to take over as its top enlisted member.

Chief Master Sgt. Daniel Keane, 52nd Fighter Wing command chief master sergeant, has been selected to be the new Air Combat Command command chief master sergeant effective March 31.

Keane replaces Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Estrem who has become the command chief master sergeant for Gen. Ed Eberhart, commander in chief of U.S. Space Command, commander in chief of North American Aerospace Defense Command, commander of Air Force Space Command and Department of Defense manager for Space Transportation Systems Contingency Support at Peterson Air Force Base, Colo.

As the command chief master sergeant, Keane will advise ACC Commander Gen. John Jumper on matters influencing the health,

welfare, morale and effective utilization of more than 77,000 enlisted members in the United States and

Continued from Page 1 overseas. He will also serve as the commander's representative to numerous committees, councils, boards, and military and civilian functions.

According to Keane, he will never forget where he was when he received the news that he would soon be taking on such a great responsibility.

"General Jumper called me from his aircraft while he was flying to Nellis Air Force Base, (Nev.) to my cell phone in Germany . . . isn't technology great?" he recalled. "As I was driving home a little while later I pulled off the road for about 30 minutes to fully digest all the ramifications of this prestigious position.

"I was very excited and honored to be selected," the chief added. "I am still a little overwhelmed with the news."

Keane, who grew up in New York

City, entered the Air Force immediately after high school in June 1974. He has an extensive background in aircraft armament systems on virtually all fighter and bomber aircraft in the Air Force inventory. He has served in a number of aircraft maintenance and support related units.

His assignments included bases in Maine, California, Virginia, Florida, and Missouri. He has served overseas in Iceland, England and two tours in Germany. Prior to his present position, he was the 52nd FW weapons manager. While overseas, he took part in Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, Proven Force, Provide Comfort, Northern Watch and Allied Force.

He was promoted to the grade of chief master sergeant March 1, 1995. In June 1997, he assumed his current position as the top enlisted member at Spangdahlem, and it was his job there that got him prepared for the heavy responsibility he soon will face, he said.

"I've had the best job in the Air Force as the command chief for the

52nd Fighter Wing," said the chief. "Spangdahlem is a very busy place. The wing is combat proven and inspection compliant.

"This wing has had some very unique challenges during my tenure which were successfully resolved because of the outstanding leadership within this wing, and it keeps getting better. I'm ready to accept the challenge."

According to Keane, his first priority will be to learn all the ACC directorates and then travel to all 27 bases to meet the troops.

"I want to focus on issues that are irritants to the enlisted force that need to be eliminated or changed," he said. "I bring a sincere desire to help the enlisted force achieve their professional and personal goals. I need to stay above the politics and continue to recommend what is right and just for them."

View Point

What sudden changes are in store for the wing. . . simply stated - very few

By Brig. Gen. Don Hoffman
52nd Fighter Wing commander

On behalf of my family, I wanted to take a moment to thank everyone for the warm welcome you've displayed since my arrival here last week. Everywhere Jacki, the kids and I have gone, people have shown us the genuine hospitality that Spangdahlem is so well known for. My family is already excited to rejoin me here after the school year ends.

So far, I've had the opportunity to get around and visit several units in the wing, including work areas of Spangdahlem, Bitburg and even a GSU. I'm very impressed with what I've seen. No matter what jobs I see the men and women of this wing performing, one thing is evident - you're proud of the job your doing. It's easy to see why you're a wing of excellence.

Now that I'm on board, many of you might be wondering what sudden changes are in store for the wing. My answer is simple - very few. If it ain't broke, don't fix it.

I like what I see, and I'm impressed with the way that this wing takes care of business. We have a great team of leaders, from first sergeants to squadron and group commanders, who've done an outstanding job of keeping this wing running day to day.

Don't expect a new vector coming out of the front office just because there's a new guy in charge.

I do have a few goals and philosophies I'd like to share with you, though. First, my immediate goals:

The most important thing that we do as a wing is to safely and professionally carry out our mission of providing combat airpower to NATO and the National Command Authorities. While we're a combat proven wing, it's vital that we maintain those combat skills at their highest level. And we can't do that without protecting our single most important resource - our people. Safety must continue to be a top priority for everyone connected to this wing.

My second goal is more personal - I'd like to ensure that everyone's assignment to the Eifel region is the best of their career. There are a lot of factors beyond my control in this equation, like



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military pay, the civilian economy, military ranning and housing allowances. But I can control many things like sustaining and improving quality of life for our people.

I believe that quality of life is a mission issue. With the recruiting and retention difficulties facing today's military, quality of life has become more than "nice to have." It's a critical part of retaining quality military families, and that's essential for readiness and mission accomplishment.

I also have two personal philosophies I'd like to share. The first is to be a good American. I can't emphasize enough how important it is to maintain the outstanding relationship we currently enjoy with our host nation and region. A single incident like the recent tragedy in Darmstadt can erase years of good will and hard work by hundreds of people. Please, take this to heart and be gracious guests of our hosts.

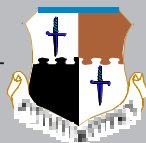
Lastly, I ask that we all continue to be good stewards of government resources. The facilities we work in and around are provided to us by the American taxpayer. It's imperative that we take good care of the things they've given us to carry out our mission, and to maintain judicious use of our resources. Something as simple as switching off a light in an empty room shows that we're serious about conserving our resources, and we take our responsibility seriously.

With these goals and philosophies in mind, I believe that Team Eifel will maintain its sharp combat edge, and we can all enjoy our assignment to Germany. I look forward to meeting you in your work area as I continue making visits throughout the month.

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<http://www.spangdahlem.af.mil>

Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany



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Command announces more awards

U.S. Air Forces in Europe officials recently announced 1999 unit and individual awards winners in aviation, maintenance, operations resource management, and mission support.

Aviation

* Maj. Sonny P. Blinkinsop, 23rd Fighter Squadron, nominee for the Daedalian Exceptional Pilot Award

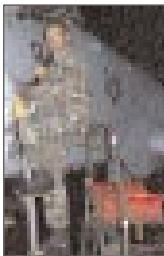
* Capt. Cary N. Culbertson, 22nd Fighter Squadron, Aviator Valor Award. The AVA is sponsored by the American Legion Post No. 743, New York, New York. The award is given for a conspicuous act of valor or courage per-formed in aerial flight during either combat or non-combat conditions.



Culbertson

Maintenance

* Staff Sgt. Kenneth S. Rose, 81st Fighter Squadron, Chief Master Sgt. Thomas N. Barnes Crew Chief of the Year O R M



Rose

* Tech. Sgt. Christopher J. Melink, 22nd FS, outstanding ORM NCO

* Senior Airman David J. Lawrence, 23rd FS, outstanding ORM airman

Mission support

* 52nd Fighter Wing, outstanding installation social actions award

* William Triplett, Gen. Horace M. Wade Innovation Award

* Annie Herbert, civilian personnel officer award

* Margret Dominik, civilian personnel specialist award

* Staff Sgt. Scott Stout, FME achievement award, instructor

* Master Sgt. Steven Barnes, FME achievement award, flight chief



Senior Airman Esperanza Berrios

Wired

Dale Werkman, lodging maintenance chief, inserts TV cables through the wall of the new employees break room. A U.S. Air Forces in Europe team will inspect the base lodging facilities Wednesday and Thursday to determine the winner of the 1999 Small Lodging Operation award. The base is competing against RAF Croughton, England.



Senior Airman Esperanza Berrios

Resource stewardship

Steian Ehlenz, employee of Francois Entsorgung, piles pallets of wood for recycling at the recycling center. One of 52nd Fighter Wing Commander Brig. Gen. Don Hoffman's priorities for members of this wing is to be good stewards of American taxpayer dollars. One way to do that is through recycling. For more on the commander's views for the wing, see View Point on Page 7.

Judge finds airman guilty

Compiled by legal office staff

A military judge found an airman from the 52nd Medical Group guilty in accordance with his plea in a general court-martial March 1.

Airman 1st Class Corey N. Sutter, a medical technician assigned to the family practice clinic, pleaded guilty to one specification of indecent assault and one specification of indecent acts in violation of Article 134 of the Uniformed Code of Military Justice.

Specifically, Sutter on two separate occasions in April and July 1999 indecently examined two female patients who were at the clinic for medical appointments. The indecent assault and indecent acts took place behind closed doors of the screening room.

Maj. Charlie Johnson-Wright, the prosecutor, argued that because of Sutter's egregious criminal conduct, one victim suffers from nightmares, her wedding has been postponed and her fiancé's impression of the Air Force now tarnished. Sutter took

advantage of the patients' unfamiliarity with clinic procedures and their trust in our system.

Johnson-Wright advocated Sutter's sentence should serve to punish him and to deter him and others from violating such positions of trust.

Maj. Rodger Drew, the military judge, sentenced Sutter to be separated from the U.S. Air Force with a bad conduct discharge, reduced to E-1 and confined in a military confinement facility for two years.

For the sake of children

April marks child abuse prevention awareness

By Dr. Suzanne Nay Furman
Family advocacy outreach manager

April marks Child Abuse Prevention Month and Month of the Military Child.

The latest statistics suggest that attention to the problem of child abuse is needed more than ever. While the overall U.S. crime statistics have gone down by 21 percent since 1993, the number of children reported abused and neglected increased 9 percent from 1993 to 1997.

Fortunately, rates of reported and substantiated child abuse have decreased in the Eifel during that time, and through 1999. Prevention efforts and community involvement are largely to thank for this decrease. The goal now is maintain those gains and work to reduce abuse rates to zero.

The Eifel community plans several events with the spirit of this year's CAPM theme of "Teaming up to keep kids... SAFE AT HOME". A large part of celebrating CAPM is the Blue Ribbon Campaign. In 1989, a Virginia grandmother began the Blue Ribbon Campaign as a memorial for her 3-year-old grandson, who had been murdered by his mother's boyfriend. The Eifel's annual Blue Ribbon campaign kicks off April 4. Brig. Gen. Donald Hoffman, 52nd Fighter Wing commander, has approved wearing blue ribbons on military uniforms for that day.

There will be many events throughout the month focusing on children and families, but the central event will be the Kid' Jubilee April 22 in the Spangdahlem Elementary

School. This event is sponsored by the Eifel Community Connection.

"We would like to celebrate military children by providing not only a carnival event, but also education and awareness for family members," said Capt. David Lane, Eifel Community Connection chair.

Throughout CAPM, there are a few simple ways people can help prevent child abuse and neglect:

- * Be a nurturing parent. Children need to know that they are special and loved. People need to educate themselves about children's developmental process so they can have reasonable expectations about what children can and can't do.

- * Help a friend, neighbor or relative. Being a parent isn't easy. Offer a helping hand to people who may be struggling with their parenting responsibilities.

- * Help yourself. When the big and little problems of everyday life pile up to the point people feel overwhelmed and out of control, take time out. Know where to turn for help when it's need.

- * If your baby cries.. It can be frustrating listening to a baby cry, especially when nothing seems to work. Learn what to do when a baby won't stop crying, but never shake a baby!

- * Get involved. Advocate for services to help families. Ask community leaders, clergy, library and schools to develop services to meet the needs of children and families.

- * Monitor children's television and computer use. Watching violent films on TV or playing violent computer games can harm young children. Not only does it scare them, it also teaches children aggression is a good way to handle frustration and solve problems.

- * Spend time playing with children. . .or read to them instead.

- * Report suspected abuse or neglect. Keeping children safe is the responsibility of every adult in the community. People who believe a child (or adult) has been or may be harmed, call the family advocacy office at 452-8279, 06565-95-8279, 453-3129 or 06561-69-3129.

April's observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month is an appropriate reminder of the community's collective responsibility to prevent the abuse and neglect that robs so many children of their childhood, their sense of security and well-being and their future.

For more information on how to prevent child abuse and neglect, call Prevent Child Abuse America at 1-800-CHILDREN or the family advocacy office.